

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining a relative probability of survival for a subject with squamous cell carcinoma, the method comprising:
determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and
comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression, wherein a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample above the threshold level indicates a relatively high probability of survival, wherein the threshold level is the level at which greater than 70% patients survive for at least 50 months.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of maspin protein in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of maspin protein.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the amount of maspin protein in the biological sample is determined using an antibody that specifically binds to maspin.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of a maspin mRNA in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of the maspin mRNA.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the amount of the maspin mRNA in the biological sample is determined by Northern blotting.

6. (Currently amended) A method of determining a relative probability of survival for a subject with squamous cell carcinoma, the method comprising:
determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and
comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression, wherein a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample below the threshold level indicates a relatively low probability of survival, wherein the threshold level is the level at which 70% patients survive for 50 months.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of maspin protein in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of maspin protein.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the amount of maspin protein in the biological sample is determined using an antibody that specifically binds to maspin.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of a maspin mRNA in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of the maspin mRNA.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the amount of the maspin mRNA in the biological sample is determined by Northern blotting.

11. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a subject with squamous cell carcinoma does not have a lymph node containing cancerous cells, the method comprising:
determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and
comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression, wherein a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample above the threshold level indicates that the subject does not have a lymph node containing cancerous cells, wherein the threshold level is the level at which greater than 70% patients survive for at least 50 months.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of maspin protein in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of maspin protein.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the amount of maspin protein in the biological sample is determined using an antibody that specifically binds to maspin.
14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of a maspin mRNA in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of the maspin mRNA.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the amount of the maspin mRNA in the biological sample is determined by Northern blotting.

16. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a subject with squamous cell carcinoma has a lymph node containing cancerous cells, the method comprising:
determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and
comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression, wherein a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample below the threshold level indicates that the subject has a lymph node containing cancerous cells, wherein the threshold level is the level at which 70% patients survive for 50 months.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of maspin protein in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of maspin protein.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the amount of maspin protein in the biological sample is determined using an antibody that specifically binds to maspin.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the level of maspin gene expression is determined by an amount of a maspin mRNA in the biological sample, and the threshold level is an amount of the maspin mRNA.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the amount of the maspin mRNA in the biological sample is determined by Northern blotting.